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## DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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*Director, Nursing Service, American Red Cross*

**A** MERRY CHRISTMAS to all Red Cross Nurses. Best wishes for a Happy New Year and strength to follow the Red Cross motto of Neutrality and Humanity into whatsoever line of work or field of effort each one of you may be engaged.

### SCHOOL OF NURSING, SOFIA BULGARIA

The American Red Cross has appropriated a sum of money to reestablish the School in Sofia, Bulgaria, started in 1915 under the auspices of Helen Scott Hay. Rachel C. Torrance, who has been with the Red Cross in Czecho-Slovakia for the past year and who was assistant to Miss Hay at that time, has proceeded to Sofia, to act as Director for the School. The former School, started under the auspices of the late Queen Eleanora, was connected with the Alexander Hospital. The new School, however, will be connected with the Bulgarian Red Cross Hospital which is a comparatively modern and up-to-date building. The American Red Cross has offered to provide the salaries of the nurse directors, their transportation, and teaching equipment. The Bulgarians have agreed to provide the hospital facilities, quarters and maintenance for the student nurses and faculty. An assistant director is now being selected, and it is expected that she will sail within a short time.

The other schools which have been sponsored by the American Red Cross, one at Warsaw and one at Poznan, both

in Poland, as well as the one at Prague, Czecho-Slovakia, have developed along educational lines that are eminently satisfactory to those who have watched the progress of these schools both from this country and abroad. The operating room at the Hospital in Warsaw, at the present time directed by felchers (orderlies), who have been in full charge regardless of sex of the patient or the character of the operation, will soon be directed by an American nurse in order that the students may secure the proper experience in operating-room technic and procedures. The economic situation in Poland has greatly increased the difficulties for the local participants. Owing to the extraordinary depreciation of the Polish mark, the adjustments that must constantly be made in order to keep pace with the rapid changes in the value of the mark make the problem of hospital housekeeping and school direction one of unparalleled difficulties.

The sudden death of Vilma Cerna on October 6, a graduate of the School at Prague, who had been in this country from early September, 1921, until the later September of this year, will be a great shock to those American nurses who were associated with her at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and at Teachers College, where she was a special student during 1921 and 1922. This has made it necessary to ask the present faculty of the School, of which Marion G. Parsons is the Director, to remain in that

country for some months longer. This School is now well established, two classes have graduated under Miss Parsons' direction, an Alumnae Association has been organized, and in a recent letter from Miss Parsons, she states that all the wards now have graduates from the school acting as head nurses, while twelve of the child welfare centers organized by the American Red Cross in that country, have also been able to secure graduates with a special public health training to direct them.

#### SCHOOL OF NURSING AT CONSTANTINOPLE, TURKEY

The school at Constantinople which has been developed on a somewhat different basis, but with assistance from the local chapter as well as the National Red Cross, is also progressing and at present is developing a public health course for the use of its students. The disturbed political situation in Constantinople has not so far affected the school.

#### RED CROSS NURSING ASSISTANCE TO THE INDIAN BUREAU

The health of the American Indians upon the reservations has long been a matter of grave concern to the United States Government. The Indian in his present state is particularly susceptible to tuberculosis, trachoma, and other contagious diseases. The hospital and medical facilities provided by the government for them have done much to mitigate the sufferings of the Indians when actually sick and the oversight and teaching of the field matrons have done much in bettering their home conditions.

The present Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Charles Burke, felt the need of

real preventive health work among the Indians, but with the small yearly appropriation granted by Congress for the relief of the Indians, he has been unable to accomplish it. At his request, the American Red Cross is sending three experienced public health nurses to several of the reservations in South Dakota, in Arizona, and the near-by states, to make a study and survey of health conditions and to carry on a regular public health nursing service in the hope of demonstrating to Congress the feasibility and value of expert health work for the Indians so that government funds may be appropriated for this purpose.

It has been possible to secure three highly trained and experienced public health nurses for this work. Florence Patterson, formerly Director of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, has charge of the survey in the larger southwestern area. As her assistant, she has Augustine B. Stoll, graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City, and of the Teachers College course in public health nursing, who has also had medical social service training at Bellevue Hospital, two years with the Army overseas, Child Welfare nursing in Czecho-Slovakia and several years as Red Cross chapter nurse. Miss Stoll will conduct the actual public health nursing demonstration on certain of the reservations according to Miss Patterson's recommendations. On the Rosebud and Pine-ridge Reservations in South Dakota, Eleanor Gregg, graduate of Waltham Hospital and public health nurse by training and experience as well as a hospital executive, is establishing a regular public health nursing service.

Commissioner Burke is sanguine as

to the results to be obtained from this Red Cross coöperation, not merely in its immediate effects in regard to the Indians themselves, but in the influence which it may exert upon Congress to make this work a government undertaking.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Stella S. Mathews, recently Director of Nursing for Poland, who returned to America during the past summer, was reassigned on November 11 to assist the American Red Cross with the Greek refugees. So far no other nurses have been sent from this country. A few Red Cross nurses who have been with the Near East Relief will probably be used by the American Red Cross. In all probability very few, if any, additional nurses will be required unless serious epidemics such as that of typhus occur. Emily Heard and Lucy Gillette have been assigned to the Virgin Islands as public health nurses. These nurses will assist Miss Waterbury, who has been there for some time, in developing public health nursing courses in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick and other Red Cross activities. Marion Doane has recently been appointed as Assistant Director of the School of Nursing in Haiti. Elizabeth Miller, recently married to an officer in the Marine Corps, Agnes Meyer, and Clara Farnsworth, have been released from the work in the Dominican Republic, where they have also been engaged in

reorganizing local hospitals. These nurses will probably not be replaced owing to the present political situation and the consequent governmental changes.

#### NURSES NEEDED FOR THE VETERANS' BUREAU HOSPITALS

The Nursing Service of the Veterans' Bureau has recently asked the American Red Cross to assist in securing two hundred additional nurses. A letter was immediately sent to all Division Directors, informing them of the needs of this department. So far eleven nurses have been recommended directly from National Headquarters. It is hoped, however, that Red Cross nurses will keep in mind the very definite needs of these important institutions. The ex-service men still need our care and attention. While no official statement has been received from the Veterans' Bureau, it is our understanding that a very definite increase has been made in salaries.

#### ANNUAL MEETING, NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

The Annual Meeting of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service will be held December 13, at National Headquarters, American Red Cross, Washington, D. C., at 10 a. m. All members of the National Committee are invited to be present. This precedes the Annual Meeting of the American Red Cross, which is to be held at 2 p. m., December 13.